

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SKATE (DACTYLOBATUS ARMATUS) FROM DEEP WATER OFF THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

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Among the fishes collected by the Bureau of Fisheries steamer *Albatross* in deep water off Charleston, South Carolina, during 1885 and 1886 were a male and female specimen of skate, closely allied to *Raja* but differing greatly from this genus in having the middle rays of the pectorals very much produced. This genus may be called *Dactylobatus* in allusion to the finger-like processes of the pectorals.

DACTYLOBATUS Bean and Weed, new genus.

Disk subcircular, not rhombic as in *Raja*; middle rays of the pectorals produced as a finger-like process on each side; dorsal surface armed with spines and prickles but apparently without the patch of differentiated spines near the outer edge of the pectorals that is found in the males of *Raja*; tail abruptly marked off from the disk as in *Raja*, not tapering gradually as in *Rhinobatus* and *Narcine*; tail armed with spines and prickles on the dorsal surface and with a rather wide dermal flap on each side; two dorsal fins near the end of the tail; a rudimentary caudal fin present.

Type of genus.—*Dactylobatus armatus*.

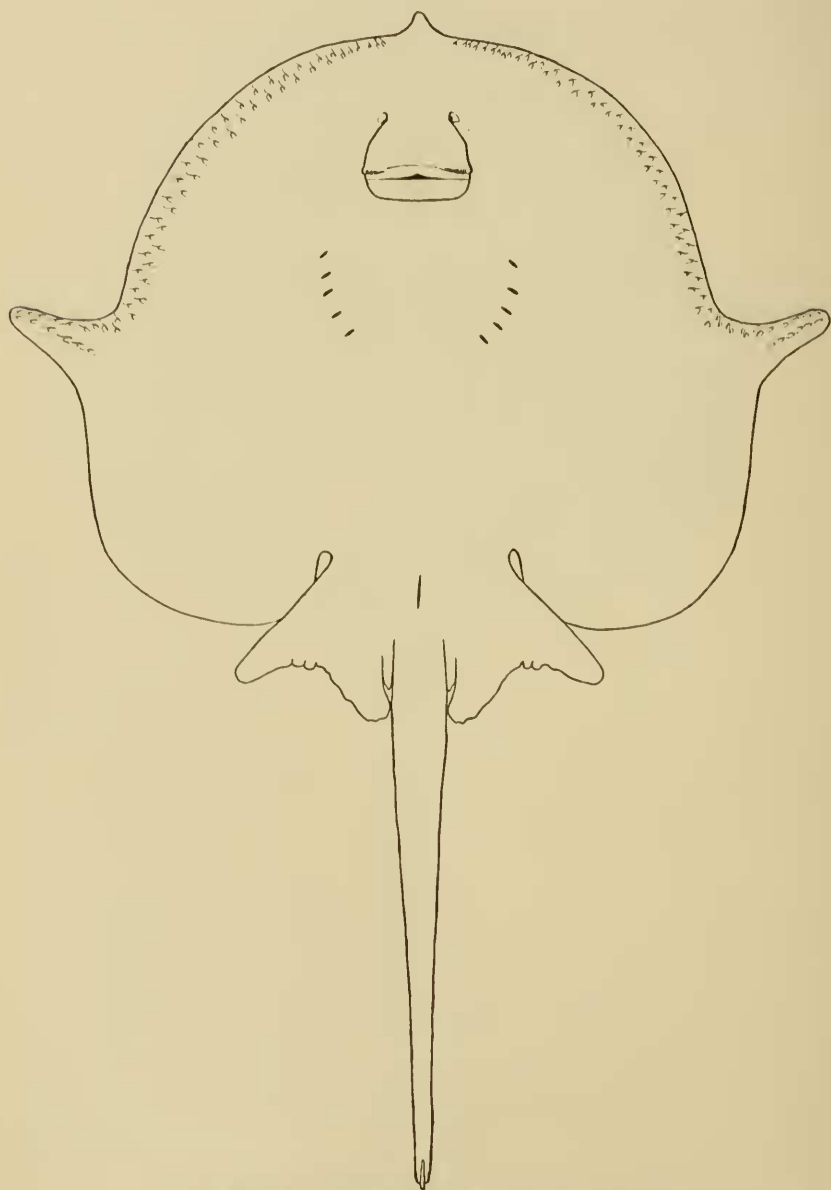
DACTYLOBATUS ARMATUS Bean and Weed, new species.

Disk nearly circular, with the snout slightly projecting and with about six or seven of the middle pectoral rays produced to form a finger-like or flap-like process, armed on the ventral surface with a double row of sharp, hooked spines having their points directed toward the meson. This armament is continued forward along the edges of the disk, nearly to the snout; middle line of back and tail with a single row of enlarged hooked spines with a row of smaller ones on each side of it. A single large blunt spine on each shoulder and a row of five on each orbital ridge; rest of the dorsal surface and the dorsal fins sparsely covered with fine prickles.

Color in alcohol, ashy with large black spots which coalesce to form blotches of various sizes and shapes; the belly white, clouded with

dark. Where what appears to be a layer of hardened mucus is removed, the color appears as a pinkish brown with dark brown spots.

Two specimens are known—a male, number 62914, from *Albatross* station 2624, $32^{\circ} 36' N.$, $77^{\circ} 29' 15'' W.$ at a depth of 258 fathoms,



OUTLINE OF VENTRAL SURFACE OF *DACTYLOBATUS ARMATUS*.

and a female, number 62915, from station 2666 or 2667, about $31^{\circ} N.$ by $80^{\circ} W.$, at a depth of about 270 fathoms. The male was taken October 21, 1885, and the female May 5, 1886.

Table of measurements.

	Male.	Female.
	<i>Cm.</i>	<i>Cm.</i>
Total length.....	a 29.4	b 26.4
Extreme width.....	c 20.5	d 17.0
Snout to end of ventral fin.....	17.7	16.5
Snout to end of pectoral fin.....	15.3	14.3
Snout to line joining centers of pupils.....	3.7	3.5
Snout to line joining spiracles.....	4.9	4.5
Snout to line joining nostrils.....	2.6	2.2
Snout to line joining first gill slits.....	6.0	5.5
Snout to line joining last gill slits.....	8.0	7.0
Snout to center of mouth.....	4.1	4.0
Snout to vent.....	14.9	13.5
Snout to line joining ends of "fingers".....	7.5	6.5
Width of mouth.....	2.7	2.4
Width between centers of pupils.....	2.4	2.2
Width between spiracles.....	2.2	2.0
Width between nostrils.....	1.7	1.5
Width between first gill slits.....	4.5	4.2
Width between last gill slits.....	3.1	3.3
Fingers extend beyond line of disk about.....	2.5	2.5
Tail, measured from vent.....	14.5	12.9

^a 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

^b 10 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

^c 8 $\frac{1}{16}$ inches.

^d 6 $\frac{11}{16}$ inches.

This species is called *armatus* in allusion to the peculiar armament of the ventral surface.